

Mr. FOSTER. With the significant and patronizing remark which he made upon the platform: My hon. friend the Minister of Railways, in his official position, cannot make these promises, but I am here to make them for him.

The entire number of civil servants at Ottawa will be reduced.

I believe the statutory increases have been taken off, and some officers have been dismissed. How far it is to go, I do not know.

The High Commissioner in Great Britain will receive a stated salary, without any addition for assistants, or perquisites.

I have not heard and do not gather from the Estimates that this plank in the platform is being carried out:

The number of Cabinet Ministers will be reduced, and the Canadian Senate will be abolished.

My friend the Postmaster General was strong on that, and the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), whom the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) thinks deserves well of the Patrons of his county who should stand by him, was also at one time strong on that plank. A noble pair of brothers, they stood side by side in the House, and their voices were lifted up together in sweet unison in a prayer for Parliament to do that same thing, to reduce the number of Cabinet Ministers and at the same time the salaries of those Ministers. But since the Postmaster General draws the salary, and my hon. friend is drawn by the Postmaster General, we hear nothing of these things.

But, Sir, we come a little further on to something more explicit still in the Patron platform:

Liquors should be taxed to the fullest revenue producing extent, and the following be admitted free into Canada:—cottons, tweeds, woollens, workingmen's tools, farm implements, fence wire, binder twine, coal oil, iron and corn; and, in addition, the tariff will be for revenue only, and so adjusted as to fall as far as possible on the luxuries and not on the necessaries of life.

Now, Sir, what have the Patrons been given by my hon. friend? They asked that cottons should be made free. The cotton schedule is made higher. Does any hon. gentleman deny it?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). Most assuredly we do.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman denies that they have raised the duty on white cottons and gray cottons.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman may deny it. I must take his denial, but it is written in the tariff presented last night.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. The hon. gentleman stated at the

commencement of his speech that he did not understand what he was talking about.

Mr. FOSTER. Now, we get a little of that undiluted chivalry of the good old Tory in the depreciation of everything else that does not centre in the possessor's own brain. The Minister of Trade and Commerce feels sore—I know it, he knows it.

An hon. MEMBER. Not so sore as you do.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman had the reversion of the Finance Ministership. At least he is authority for my statement; he said so, it was reported in the public prints. He will not deny it. I have been told on very good authority that he came down all harnessed and ready to take it, that at the last moment it was thought better, on account of certain qualities of the hon. gentleman, that he should remain a little in the background and that a new and younger man should take the place. But the cotton schedule is made higher.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. It is not.

Mr. FOSTER. The cottons known as white and gray, bleached and unbleached, which under the old tariff were at 22½ per cent, have been raised to 25 per cent. That is the answer given to the Patrons. Tweeds and woollens—have they been made free? No. They have been changed somewhat, but they have been kept at what the Finance Minister described as the highest rate in his tariff, 35 per cent. The Patrons asked that they be free. By the way, why was 35 per cent put upon woollens and a specific duty taken off, and why was the duty on cement increased? Can any one tell the reason?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). The duty on cement is not increased.

Mr. FOSTER. There speaks another hon. Minister who is incorrect. The duty on cement was 40 cents per barrel. The standard barrel is 450 pounds.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. It does not say standard barrel.

Mr. FOSTER. It is every barrel. It applies to small barrels as well as large; but in the course of competition, with the duty at 40 cents per barrel, the trade soon "got on" and used a large barrel. The standard barrel is 450 pounds. Some barrels have come into Montreal with 475 pounds in them. A duty of 12½ per cent makes on a standard barrel very nearly 20 per cent advance, and on a barrel containing 475 pounds 25 per cent advance.

Mr. DOMVILLE. Rubbish.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. member from King's elegantly says it is "rot."